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## SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU

ARK40 DOE,

Index No.

**SUMMONS** 

Plaintiff,

v.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK; DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE a/k/a THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK; THE CAPUCHIN FATHERS A/K/A THE CAPUCHIN FATHERS PROVINCE OF ST. MARY A/K/A CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS PROVINCE OF ST. MARY A/K/A THE PROVINCE OF ST. MARY OF THE CAPUCHIN ORDER A/K/A THE PROVINCE OF ST. MARY OF THE CAPUCHIN ORDER, ST. CONRAD FRIARY A/K/A CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN TERTIARY PROVINCE OF ST. MARY, N.Y.; ST. FRANCIS RETREAT HOUSE; ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL A/K/A ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL; ST. BARNABUS APOSTLE: and DOES 1-5 whose identities are unknown to Plaintiff,

Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer

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the Complaint, a copy of which is hereby served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Complaint upon the undersigned attorneys listed below within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in the case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded herein.

Dated: August 14, 2019

New York, New York

/s/ Nahid A. Shaikh

Nahid A. Shaikh Patrick Stoneking

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Counsel for Plaintiff

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# SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU

ARK40 DOE,

Plaintiff,

v.

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK; DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE a/k/a THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK; THE CAPUCHIN FATHERS A/K/A THE CAPUCHIN FATHERS PROVINCE OF ST. MARY A/K/A CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS PROVINCE OF ST. MARY A/K/A THE PROVINCE OF ST. MARY OF THE CAPUCHIN ORDER A/K/A THE PROVINCE OF ST. MARY OF THE CAPUCHIN ORDER, ST. CONRAD FRIARY A/K/A CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN TERTIARY PROVINCE OF ST. MARY, N.Y.; ST. FRANCIS RETREAT HOUSE; ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL A/K/A ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL; ST. BARNABUS APOSTLE: and DOES 1-5 whose identities are unknown to Plaintiff,

Defendants.

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COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

From approximately the years of 1971 through 1974, Father John Mahoney, O.F.M.

Cap. ("Fr. Mahoney") sexually abused Plaintiff as a child. From approximately the years

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of 1975 through 1978, Fr. Edward R. D'Andrea sexually abused Plaintiff as a child. While

the abuse occurred, Defendants were generally negligent, they negligently employed Fr.

Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea, and gave them access to children, including Plaintiff. This

lawsuit arises out of Plaintiff's significant damages from that sexual abuse, described

below. Plaintiff, by and through Plaintiff's attorneys, states and alleges as follows:

**PARTIES** 

A. Plaintiff

1. At all times material to this Complaint, Plaintiff was a parishioner at St.

Barnabus Apostle in Bellmore, New York. At all times material, Plaintiff resided in the

State of New York.

2 Plaintiff brings this action under a pseudonym with leave of Court.

B. Defendants

3. Whenever reference is made to any Defendant entity, such reference

includes that entity, its parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, and

successors. In addition, whenever reference is made to any act, deed, or transaction of

any entity, the allegation means that the entity engaged in the act, deed, or transaction by

or through its officers, directors, agents, employees, or representatives while they were

actively engaged in the management, direction, control, or transaction of the entity's

business or affairs.

4. At all times material, Defendant Archdiocese of New York ("Archdiocese")

was and continues to be an organization or entity which includes, but is not limited to,

civil corporations, decision making entities, officials, and employees, authorized to

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conduct business and conducting business in the State of New York with its principal

place of business at 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

5. The Archdiocese was created in approximately 1850. Later, the Archdiocese

created a corporation called the Archdiocese of New York to conduct some of its affairs.

The Archdiocese operates its affairs as both a corporate entity and as the organization

known as the Archdiocese of New York. Both of these entities and all other affiliated

corporations and entities controlled by the Archbishop are included in this Complaint as

the "Archdiocese." The Archdiocese functions as a business by engaging in numerous

revenue producing activities and soliciting money from its members in exchange for its

services.

6. The Archdiocese has several programs that seek out the participation of

children including, but not limited to, schools and other educational programs. The

Archdiocese, through its officials, has complete control over those activities and

programs involving children. The Archdiocese has the power to appoint, train, supervise,

monitor, remove, and terminate each and every person working with children within the

Archdiocese.

7. At all times material, Defendant Diocese of Rockville Centre a/k/a The

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York ("Diocese") was and continues

to be an organization or entity which includes, but is not limited to, civil corporations,

decision making entities, officials, and employees, authorized to conduct business and

conducting business in the State of New York with its principal place of business at 50

North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

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8. The Diocese was created in approximately 1957 from the Diocese of

Brooklyn. Later, the Diocese created a corporation called the Roman Catholic Diocese of

Rockville Centre, New York to conduct some of its affairs. The Diocese operates its affairs

as both a corporate entity and as the organization known as the Diocese of Rockville

Centre. Both of these entities and all other affiliated corporations and entities controlled

by the Bishop are included in this Complaint as the "Diocese." The Diocese functions as

a business by engaging in numerous revenue producing activities and soliciting money

from its members in exchange for its services.

9. The Diocese has several programs that seek out the participation of children

including, but not limited to, schools and other educational programs. The Diocese,

through its officials, has complete control over those activities and programs involving

children. The Diocese has the power to appoint, train, supervise, monitor, remove, and

terminate each and every person working with children within the Diocese.

10. At all times material, Defendant The Capuchin Fathers a/k/a the Capuchin

Fathers Province of St. Mary a/k/a Capuchin Franciscans Province of St. Mary a/k/a

The Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order a/k/a The Province of St. Mary of the

Capuchin Order, St. Conrad Friary a/k/a Capuchin Franciscan Tertiary Province of St.

Mary, N.Y. ("Capuchins") was and continues to be a religious order of priests and

brothers affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church with its headquarters and principal

place of business at 30 Gedney Park Drive, White Plains, New York 10605.

11. The Capuchins are an organization or entity which includes, but is not

limited to, civil corporations, decision making entities, officials, and employees,

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authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of New York. The

provincial is the top official of the Capuchins and is given authority over all matters

dealing with the Capuchins as a result of his position. The Capuchins function as a

business by engaging in numerous revenue-producing activities and soliciting money

from its members in exchange for its services.

12 The Capuchins have several programs that seek out the participation of

children, including but not limited to camps and other youth programs. The Capuchins,

through their officials, have complete control over those activities and programs

involving children. The Capuchins have the power to appoint, train, supervise, monitor,

remove and terminate each and every person working with children within the

Capuchins.

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13. At all times material, Defendant St. Barnabus Apostle ("St. Barnabus") was

and continues to be an organization authorized to conduct business and conducting

business in the State of New York, with its principal place of business at 2320 Bedford

Ave, Bellmore, NY 11710. St. Barnabus includes, but is not limited to, the St. Barnabus

corporation and any other organizations and/or entities operating under the same or

similar name with the same or similar principal place of business.

14. At all times material, St. Barnabus was and continues to be under the direct

authority, control, and province of Defendant Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Bishop of

the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and/or the Capuchins. Defendant St. Barnabus includes

any school affiliated with St. Barnabus. At all times material, Defendants the Diocese of

Rockville Centre and/or the Capuchins owned, operated, managed, maintained, and

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controlled St. Barnabus.

15. At all times material, Defendant St. Francis Retreat House ("St. Francis")

was an organization authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State

of New York, with its principal place of business at 781 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524. St.

Francis includes, but is not limited to, the St. Francis corporation and any other

organizations and/or entities operating under the same or similar name with the same

or similar principal place of business.

16. At all times material, St. Francis was under the direct authority, control, and

province of Defendant Archdiocese of New York, the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of

New York, and/or the Capuchins. At all times material, Defendants the Archdiocese of

New York and/or the Capuchins owned, operated, managed, maintained, and controlled

St. Francis.

17. At all times material, Defendant St. John's Hospital a/k/a St. John's

Episcopal Hospital ("St. John's") was an organization authorized to conduct business and

conducting business in the State of New York, with its principal place of business at 48

Route 25A, Smithtown, NY 11787. St. John's includes, but is not limited to, the St. John's

corporation and any other organizations and/or entities operating under the same or

similar name with the same or similar principal place of business.

18. At all times material, St. John's was and continues to be under the direct

authority, control, and province of Defendant Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Bishop of

the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and/or the Capuchins. At all times material, Defendants

Diocese of Rockville Centre and/or the Capuchins owned, operated, managed,

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maintained, and controlled St. John's.

19. Defendants Does 1 through 5 are unknown agents whose identities will be provided when they become known pursuant to C.P.L.R. § 1024.

**JURISDICTION** 

20. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to C.P.L.R. § 301 as Defendants'

principal places of business are in New York and because the unlawful conduct

complained of herein occurred in New York.

21. Venue is proper pursuant to C.P.L.R. § 503 in that Nassau County is the

principal place of business of Defendant Diocese. In addition, many of the events giving

rise to this action occurred in Nassau County.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS** 

**Background** A.

22 The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church and, by implication these

Defendants, have been aware of the serious problem of clergy sexual abuse of children

since at least the 1800s.

23. Further, Roman Catholic Church officials, including these Defendants, have

used their power and influence to prevent victims and their families from disclosing

allegations of abuse.

24. Additionally, Plaintiff's relationship to Defendants, Fr. Mahoney, and Fr.

D'Andrea, as a vulnerable child, student, and parishioner at St. Barnabus was one in

which Plaintiff was subject to the ongoing influence of Defendants, Fr. Mahoney, and Fr.

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D'Andrea, Plaintiff's abusers.

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B. **Specific Allegations** 

25. At certain times relevant to this Complaint, Fr. Mahoney was a Roman

Catholic priest employed by the Archdiocese, the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the

Capuchins, St. Barnabus, St. Francis, and St. John's. At all times material, Fr. Mahoney

was a member of a religious order commonly referred to as the Capuchin Friars.

26. At all times material, Fr. D'Andrea was a Roman Catholic priest employed

by the Diocese of Rockville Centreand St. Barnabus.

27. Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea remained under the direct supervision,

employ, and control of Defendants.

Defendants placed Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea in positions where they 28.

had access to and worked with children as an integral part of his work.

29. Plaintiff was raised in a devout Roman Catholic family and attended St.

Barnabus in Bellmore, in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's family

came in contact with Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea as agents and representatives of

Defendants, and at St. Barnabus.

30. Plaintiff, as a youth, participated in activities at the St. Barnabus. Plaintiff,

therefore, developed great admiration, trust, reverence, and respect for the Roman

Catholic Church, including Defendants and their agents, including Fr. Mahoney and Fr.

D'Andrea. During and through these activities, Plaintiff, as a minor and vulnerable child,

was dependent on Defendants, Fr. Mahoney, and Fr. D'Andrea. Defendants had custody

of Plaintiff and accepted the entrustment of Plaintiff and, therefore, had responsibility for

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Plaintiff and authority over Plaintiff.

31. From approximately 1971 to 1974, when Plaintiff was approximately 11 to

14 years old, Fr. Mahoney engaged in unpermitted sexual contact with Plaintiff.

32 From approximately 1975 to 1978, when Plaintiff was approximately 15 to

18 years old, Fr. D'Andrea engaged in unpermitted sexual contact with Plaintiff.

**COUNT I: NEGLIGENCE** 

33. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1-32 above.

34. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care to protect the Plaintiff

from injury.

35. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of care because each Defendant had a

special relationship with Plaintiff.

36. Defendants also had a duty arising from the special relationship that existed

with Plaintiff's parents, and other parents of young, innocent, vulnerable

children in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Rockville Centre to properly

train and supervise its clerics. This special relationship arose because of the high degree

of vulnerability of the children entrusted to their care. As a result of this high degree of

vulnerability and risk of sexual abuse inherent in such a special relationship, Defendants

had a duty to establish measures of protection not necessary for persons who are older

and better able to safeguard themselves.

37. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty to protect Plaintiff from harm because

Defendants also had a special relationship with Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea.

38. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care because they solicited

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youth and parents for participation in their youth programs; encouraged youth and

parents to have the youth participate in their programs; undertook custody of minor

children, including Plaintiff; promoted their facilities and programs as being safe for

children; held their agents, including Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea, out as safe to work

with children; encouraged parents and children to spend time with their agents; and/or

encouraged their agents, including Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea, to spend time with,

interact with, and recruit children.

39. By accepting custody of the minor Plaintiff, Defendants established an in

loco parentis relationship with Plaintiff and in so doing, owed Plaintiff a duty to protect

Plaintiff from injury. Further, Defendants entered into a fiduciary relationship with

Plaintiff by undertaking the custody, supervision of, and/or care of the minor Plaintiff.

As a result of Plaintiff being a minor, and by Defendants undertaking the care and

guidance of the Plaintiff, Defendants also held a position of empowerment over Plaintiff.

Further, Defendants, by holding themselves out as being able to provide a safe

environment for children, solicited and/or accepted this position of empowerment.

Defendants, through its employees, exploited this power over Plaintiff and, thereby, put

the minor Plaintiff at risk for sexual abuse.

40. By establishing and/or operating the Archdiocese, the Diocese, St.

Barnabus, St. Francis, and St. John's, accepting the minor Plaintiff as a participant in their

programs, holding their facilities and programs out to be a safe environment for Plaintiff,

accepting custody of the minor Plaintiff in loco parentis, and by establishing a fiduciary

relationship with Plaintiff, Defendants entered into an express and/or implied duty to

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properly supervise Plaintiff and provide a reasonably safe environment for children, who

participated in their programs. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty to properly supervise

Plaintiff to prevent harm from foreseeable dangers. Defendants had the duty to exercise

the same degree of care over minors under their control as a reasonably prudent person

would have exercised under similar circumstances.

41. By establishing and operating the Archdiocese, the Diocese, St. Barnabus,

St. Francis, and St. John's, which offered educational programs to children and which

may have included a school, and by accepting the enrollment and participation of the

minor Plaintiff as a participant in those educational programs, Defendants owed Plaintiff

a duty to properly supervise Plaintiff to prevent harm from generally foreseeable

dangers.

42 Each Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty to protect Plaintiff from harm

because Defendants invited Plaintiff onto their property and Fr. Mahoney and Fr.

D'Andrea posed a dangerous condition on Defendants' property.

43. Each Defendant breached its duties to Plaintiff. Defendants failed to use

ordinary care in determining whether their facilities were safe and/or determining

whether they had sufficient information to represent their facilities as safe. Defendants'

breach of their duties include, but are not limited to: failure to protect Plaintiff from a

known danger, failure to have sufficient policies and procedures in place to prevent child

sex abuse, failure to properly implement policies and procedures to prevent child sex

abuse, failure to take reasonable measures to ensure that policies and procedures to

prevent child sex abuse were working, failure to adequately inform families and children

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of the risks of child sex abuse, failure to investigate risks of child molestation, failure to

properly train the employees at institutions and programs within Defendants'

geographical confines, failure to train the minors within Defendants' geographical

confines about the dangers of sexual abuse by clergy, failure to have any outside agency

test their safety procedures, failure to protect the children in their programs from child

sex abuse, failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care for child safety, failure to

investigate the amount and type of information necessary to represent the institutions,

programs, leaders and people as safe, failure to train their employees properly to identify

signs of child molestation by fellow employees, failure by relying upon mental health

professionals, and/or failure by relying on people who claimed that they could treat child

molesters.

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44. Defendants also breached their duty to Plaintiff by failing to warn Plaintiff

and Plaintiff's family of the risk that Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea posed and the risks

of child sexual abuse in Catholic institutions. They also failed to warn them about any of

the knowledge that Defendants had about child sexual abuse.

45. Defendants additionally violated a legal duty by failing to report known

and/or suspected abuse of children by Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea and/or its other

agents to the police and law enforcement.

46. Prior to the sexual abuse of Plaintiff, Defendants learned or should have

learned that Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea were not fit to work with children.

Defendants, by and through their agents, servants and/or employees, became aware, or

should have become aware of Fr. Mahoney's and Fr. D'Andrea's propensity to commit

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sexual abuse and of the risk to Plaintiff's safety. At the very least, Defendants knew or

should have known that they did not have sufficient information about whether or not

their leaders and people working at St. Barnabus, St. Francis, and St. John's, and other

Catholic institutions within the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Rockville

Centre were safe.

47. Defendants knew or should have known that there was a risk of child sex

abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the

Archdiocese and the Diocese. At the very least, Defendants knew or should have known

that they did not have sufficient information about whether or not there was a risk of

child sex abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the

Archdiocese and the Diocese.

48. Defendants knew or should have known that Defendants had numerous

agents who had sexually molested children. Defendants knew or should have known that

child molesters have a high rate of recidivism. They knew or should have known that

there was a specific danger of child sex abuse for children participating in their youth

programs.

49. However, despite this knowledge, Defendants negligently deemed that Fr.

Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea were fit to work with children; and/or that any previous

suitability problems Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea had were fixed and cured; and/or

that Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea would not sexually molest children; and/or that Fr.

Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea would not injure children.

50. Defendants' actions created a foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiff. As a

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vulnerable child participating in the programs and activities Defendants offered to

minors, Plaintiff was a foreseeable victim. Additionally, as a vulnerable child who Fr.

Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea had access to through Defendants' facilities and programs,

Plaintiff was a foreseeable victim.

51. As a direct result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional,

and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering. The sexual abuse and resulting

injuries to Plaintiff were caused solely and wholly by reason of the negligent failures of

Defendants.

COUNT II: NEGLIGENT TRAINING AND SUPERVISION OF EMPLOYEES

52. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1-51 above.

53. At all times material, Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea were employed by

Defendants and was under each Defendant's direct supervision, employ, and control

when he committed the wrongful acts alleged herein. Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea

engaged in the wrongful conduct while acting in the course and scope of his employment

with Defendants and/or accomplished the sexual abuse by virtue of his job-created

authority.

54. Defendants had a duty, arising from their employment of Fr. Mahoney and

Fr. D'Andrea, to ensure that he did not sexually molest children.

55. Further, Defendants owed a duty to train and educate employees and

administrators and establish adequate and effective policies and procedures calculated

to detect, prevent, and address inappropriate behavior and conduct between clerics and

children.

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56. Defendants were negligent in the training, supervision, and instruction of their employees. Defendants failed to timely and properly educate, train, supervise, and/or monitor their agents or employees with regard to policies and procedures that should be followed when sexual abuse of a child is suspected or observed. Defendants were additionally negligent in failing to supervise, monitor, chaperone, and/or investigate Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea and/or in failing to create, institute, and/or enforce rules, policies, procedures, and/or regulations to prevent Fr. Mahoney's and Fr. D'Andrea's sexual abuse of Plaintiff. In failing to properly supervise Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea, and in failing to establish such training procedures for employees and administrators, Defendants failed to exercise the degree of care that a reasonably prudent

57. As a direct result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional, and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering. The sexual abuse and resulting injuries to Plaintiff were caused solely and wholly by reason of the negligent failures of Defendants in the training and/or supervising of its employees.

### **COUNT III: NEGLIGENT RETENTION OF EMPLOYEES**

58. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1-57 above.

person would have exercised under similar circumstances.

- 59. At all times material, Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea were employed by Defendants and was under each Defendant's direct supervision, employ, and control when he committed the wrongful acts alleged herein.
- 60. Defendants negligently retained Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea with knowledge of Fr. Mahoney's and Fr. D'Andrea's propensity for the type of behavior

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which resulted in Plaintiff's injuries in this action. Defendants failed to investigate Fr.

Mahoney's and Fr. D'Andrea's past and/or current history of sexual abuse and, through

the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have known of Fr. Mahoney's and Fr.

D'Andrea's propensity for child sexual abuse. Defendants should have made an

appropriate investigation of Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea and failed to do so. An

appropriate investigation would have revealed the unsuitability of Fr. Mahoney and Fr.

D'Andrea for continued employment and it was unreasonable for Defendants to retain

Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea in light of the information they knew or should have

known.

61. Defendants negligently retained Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea in a

position where he had access to children and could foreseeably cause harm which

Plaintiff would not have been subjected to had Defendants taken reasonable care.

62 In failing to timely remove Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea from working

with children or terminate the employment of Fr. Mahoney and Fr. D'Andrea,

Defendants failed to exercise the degree of care that a reasonably prudent person would

have exercised under similar circumstances.

63. As a direct result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained physical, emotional,

and psychological injuries, along with pain and suffering. The sexual abuse and resulting

injuries to Plaintiff were caused solely and wholly by reason of the negligent failures of

Defendants in the retention of its employees.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF** 

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing causes of action, Plaintiff prays for

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lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

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judgment against Defendants in an amount that will fully and fairly compensate Plaintiff for Plaintiff's injuries and damages and for any other relief the Court deems appropriate.

The amount of damages sought in this Complaint exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all

#### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable. Pursuant to §4 of the New York Child Victims Act, Plaintiff is entitled to a trial preference.

Dated: August 14, 2019 New York, New York

/s/ Nahid A. Shaikh

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